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April 9, 2018

**VIA ECFS**

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: *Notice of Ex Parte Presentation - Hurricane Relief Item (WC Docket No. 10-90; WT Docket No. 10-208)*

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On April 5-6, 2018, Michael T. Prior, President and Chief Executive Officer of ATN International, parent company of Virgin Islands Telephone Company dba Viya, Viya Wireless, and Choice Communications, LLC, met with Commissioners and their staffs to discuss the pending Commission item that would create the Connect USVI Fund to provide relief from the devastation caused by Hurricanes Irma and Maria in September 2017.<sup>1</sup> Specifically, on March 5, Mr. Prior met separately with Commissioner Michael O’Rielly and Chief of Staff Brooke Ericson and Commissioner Brenden Carr and Chief of Staff Jamie Susskind, and on March 6, Mr. Prior met separately with Commissioner Mignon Clyburn, Wireline Legal Advisor Nese Guendelsberger, and Joseph Kerins; and with Travis Litman, Chief of Staff and Senior Legal Advisor to Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel. I also attended all four meetings.

In the meetings, Mr. Prior urged the Commission to act quickly on the proposed recovery item in order to provide much-needed relief to the USVI. He explained that recovery of telecommunications networks in the U.S. Virgin Islands (USVI) has been slowed by delays in access to crucial equipment and crews, particularly with respect to the wireline network. He observed that the company has faced mounting restoration costs while receiving very little revenue, and that the 2018 hurricane season will begin in only a few months. Now is thus a critical time for certainty as to the amount of funding that will be available to restore the network and improve its resilience in future storms.

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<sup>1</sup> “Chairman Pai Unveils \$954 Million Plan to Restore and Expand Networks in Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands,” News Release (March 6, 2018).

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With respect to short-term funding for immediate restoration of wireless networks, Mr. Prior noted that no wireless carriers in the USVI receive high-cost support; thus, any support directed to current support recipients would not benefit wireless carriers in the USVI.

Mr. Prior also argued that all relief funding should flow to carriers designated as eligible telecommunications carriers and should be accompanied by reasonable accountability measures to ensure that the funding is used for the purposes for which it was intended.

Please direct any questions regarding this filing to the undersigned.

Sincerely,

/s/  
L. Charles Keller

cc: Hon. Mignon Clyburn  
Hon. Michael O’Rielly  
Hon. Brenden Carr  
Nese Guendelsberger  
Brooke Ericson  
Jamie Susskind  
Travis Litman  
Joseph Kerins